

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1489

Introduced by Assembly Member Maldonado

February 26, 1999

An act to amend Section 35402 of the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1489, as introduced, Maldonado. Length of vehicles: extensions.

Existing law limits the length of vehicles and combinations of vehicles coupled together. Under existing law, any extension or device used to increase the carrying capacity of a vehicle is generally included in measuring the length of a vehicle. However, extensions of not more than 18 inches in length on the last vehicle in a combination of vehicles transporting loads are not included in measuring the length when the vehicles are loaded.

This bill would not include, in measuring the length, an 18-inch extension on the front of the first trailer and the rear of the last vehicle.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 35402 of the Vehicle Code is
2 amended to read:

1 35402. (a) Any extension or device, including any
2 adjustable axle added to the front or rear of a vehicle, used
3 to increase the carrying capacity of a vehicle shall be
4 included in measuring the length of a vehicle, except that
5 a drawbar shall not be included in measuring the length
6 of a vehicle but shall be included in measuring the overall
7 length of a combination of vehicles.

8 (b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), extensions of not
9 more than 18 inches in length on each end of a vehicle or
10 combination of vehicles used exclusively to transport
11 vehicles shall not be included in measuring the length of
12 a vehicle or combination of vehicles when the vehicles
13 are loaded.

14 (c) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), extensions of not
15 more than 18 inches in length on the *front of the first*
16 *trailer and the rear of the* last vehicle in a combination of
17 vehicles transporting loads shall not be included in
18 measuring the length of a vehicle or combination of
19 vehicles when the vehicles are loaded.

20 (d) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), any extension or
21 device which is not used to carry any load and which does
22 not exceed three feet in length, added to the rear of a
23 vehicle, and is used exclusively for pushing the vehicle or
24 a combination of vehicles, which vehicle or combination
25 of vehicles is designed and used exclusively to transport
26 earth, sand, gravel, and similar materials, shall be
27 included in measuring the length of the vehicle but shall
28 not be included in measuring the overall length of the
29 combination of vehicles.

30 (e) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), a truck
31 semitrailer combination, but not a truck tractor and
32 semitrailer combination, may use a sliding fifth wheel, or
33 a truck tractor, semitrailer, trailer, and a truck-trailer
34 combination may use a sliding drawbar, to extend the
35 length of the combination by not more than 2 feet 6
36 inches while traveling 35 miles per hour or less on any
37 highway, except a freeway. These provisions shall apply,
38 however, to freeway onramps and offramps and freeway
39 connectors. The sliding fifth wheel or drawbar when
40 extended shall not be included in measuring the overall

1 length of the combination of vehicles if the pivot point of
2 the semitrailer connection is more than two feet to the
3 rear of the center of the rearmost axle of the motortruck
4 or if the distance from the pivot point to the center of the
5 rearmost axle of the semitrailer does not exceed 34 feet.

6 Combinations of vehicles permitted by this subdivision
7 shall be in compliance with the weight limits provided in
8 Article 1 (commencing with Section 35550) of Chapter 5
9 whenever any drawbar or sliding fifth wheel is extended,
10 contracted, or in any intermediate position as provided
11 for by this subdivision.

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